



WEEK 2 : PROMISE (Genesis)

Question: How do you think our world came to exist?

Now read Genesis 1

Genesis may be less clear than we'd like on the details of how the universe began, but it is very clear on the fact that it did have a beginning and who created it.

What does verse 1 tell us?

As the land appears, God makes a value judgment about what he has done. What does God say? (v10)

He says this again in verse 12, verse 18, verse 20, and verse 25. What had God done at each stage?

Genesis 1 unfolds a creation that God made with a specific purpose in mind. In verse 26 we reach the purpose. How is mankind made, and why?

What does God do to mankind in verse 28?

Now that mankind has been created, God's value judgment changes. What is it now?
(v31)

The emphasis of the creation story in Genesis is that God made a *place* for *people* to be co-rulers who relate to him under his *rule, protection and blessing*.

In Genesis 3, though, we learn how this perfect relationship with God in a perfect place is lost. The rest of the Bible is about how God's intentions are to be met in a way that cannot be lost.

He begins with a promise that one of Adam & Eve's descendants will crush the head of the serpent who led them to reject God's rule, protection and blessing. (Genesis 3:15)

The plan to regain these three things...

GOD'S PLACE GOD'S PEOPLE GOD'S RULE, PROTECTION & BLESSING

...is then traced throughout the rest of the Bible.

Read Genesis 12:1-3, below, and then answer the questions.

¹The LORD had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

²'I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.'

Where is Abram (later called Abraham) to go to? (v1)

"...to the _____ I will show you."

What will God make Abram into? (v2)

"I will make you into a _____,"

What will God do? (v2)

"...and I will _____ you; I will _____,"

At the end of Genesis, God's people (Abraham's grand-child Jacob and his family) suffer a famine in their land, but God rescues them.

Read Genesis 46:1-4, below, and then answer the questions.

¹ So Israel set out with all that was his, and when he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ² And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night and said, 'Jacob! Jacob!' 'Here I am,' he replied. ³ 'I am God, the God of your father,' he said. 'Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. ⁴ I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again. And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes.'

PEOPLE: Jacob has been given a new family name. What is it? (v1, 2)

PLACE: Where is Jacob and his family to go? (v3)

RULE/PROTECTION/BLESSING: What does God promise? (v3,4)